United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1592
1 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council discusses situation in occupied Arab territories following massacre at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque; Observer for Palestine calls for urgent and decisive measures to save peace process, including disarmament of settlers and dismantling of settlements.

+ Secretary-General calls for immediate release of four United Nations staff members detained by Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

+ Secretary-General appoints Benon Sevan as Assistant Secretary-General in Department for Administration and Management.

+ WHO and UNOSOM II launch major campaign against cholera outbreak in Somalia; 23 cases and eight deaths reported in Bulo Burti.

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The Security Council met last night to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories following the attack last Friday on the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in which more than 50 people were killed. The Observer for Palestine said the Council and Israel should take urgent and decisive measures to save the peace process in the wake of the massacre. He said the Israeli Government should adopt real changes in policy regarding settlements and settlers in the occupied territories, and emphasized that the settlers must be disarmed and the settlements dismantled.

The representative of Israel condemned the "criminal murder" of Palestinian worshippers, which he stressed was committed by a single individual. He told the Council that extremists on both sides believed they could derail the peace process, but stressed that they were wrong. The Israeli Government had authorized a number of steps in response to the massacre, including the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry and the adoption of measures against radical elements in the territories. He called on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and to put an end to 100 years of war and terrorism.

(more)

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The observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said that if the massacre was allegedly the act of a lunatic, there were a "few thousand more lunatics" brandishing assault weapons and attacking innocents in a territory to which they had no legitimate claim.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for the immediate release of four Sudanese United Nations staff members detained by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The four were part of a United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan team which was detained last Thursday while vaccinating children and carrying out an assessment of humanitarian needs in the Attar area.

After learning that the team had been detained, the United Nations demanded the release of its personnel and sent an aircraft to evacuate them. However, only one person, an international staff member, was released.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Benon Sevan as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department for Administration and Management. Mr. Sevan, a national of Cyprus, will act as Security Coordinator and oversee the preparation of a number of reports on restructuring and related issues requested by the General Assembly for submission in the coming months. He will also collaborate with the Officer-in-Charge in the overall management of the Department.

Mr. Sevan was appointed Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs in July 1992, with particular responsibility for General Assembly and Security Council affairs. He previously served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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There has been a serious outbreak of cholera in Somalia and the World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating a major campaign against the disease, a United Nations spokesman said today. Local authorities have formed a commission to manage the outbreak in Mogadishu, while the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and its humanitarian partners have stepped up a public awareness campaign in Kismayo in an effort to halt the epidemic.

WHO representatives yesterday reported 23 cases of cholera and eight deaths in Bulo Burti, the spokesman noted.

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